

JACL REPORTER

Eira Nagaoka, editor

Seattle Chapter
Mich Matsudaira; president

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SEATTLE JACL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

JACL OFFICE, 316 MAYNARD AVENUE SOUTH, ROOM 109

FROM 7:45 P.M. PRESIDENT MATSUDAIRA PRESIDING

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. REFRESHMENTS AS USUAL

Gil Hirabayashi, chairman of the nomination committee, has released the names of 1979 JACL officers and board members as follow:

President, Mich Matsudaira; 1st VP, Joanne Fujita; 2nd VP, Eira Nagaoka; 3rd VP, Chuck Kato; 4th VP, Patti Shimomura; recording secretary (unfilled); corresponding secretary, Ruth Yoneyama Woo; treasurer, Eileen Takeuchi; historian, Ken Nakano; district council delegate, Ted Taniguchi. The board members follow:

Group I--Helen Akita, Cherry Kinoshita, Dr. Min Masuda, John Matsumoto, Tomio Moriguchi, Ben Nakagawa, Toru Sakahara; Group II--Frank Fujii, Chris Kato, Aki Kurose, Henry Miyatake, Arlene Oki, John Sato, Fran Wada; Group III--Gil Hirabayashi, Ron Mamiya, Bruce Miyahara, May Sasaki, Jerry Shigaki, Delores Sibonga, and Barbara Yoshida.

The newly elected president Mich Matsudaira is also the president of Mich's Men Shop located at 622 South Jackson. Matsudaira opened the clothing store following his resignation as executive director of State of Washington Commission of Asian American Affairs. And we are very grateful for his contribution to the commission work. Previous to that he was the manager in the Boeing Company. He held position as board member and vice president for Seattle JACL. He is member of U.S. Census advisory committee. More recently he was appointed to the small business task force for Mayor Charles Royer's office.

Gil Hirabayashi has done a thorough job of getting nominations skimming the cream off the community talents. One may take any 21 names from the nominees list at random and will end up with an able board. The outgoing president Ted Taniguchi has steered the helm of Seattle JACL in exceptionally smooth sailing. Congratulations, Ted.

Besides the chairman the nomination committee included Ron Mamiya, Bruce Miyahara, Don Kazama, May Sasaki, Chuck Kato, Karen Shimizu, and Mitsue Mihara.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Though we are late, the Seattle Chapter wishes to acknowledge the generous donation from Mr. and Mrs. Roy Seko in memory of Suye Seko.

JACL INSTALLATION-RECOGNITION BANQUET JAN. 19

JACL installation-recognition banquet will be held Friday, Jan. 19 at the Bush Garden Restaurant. Sensei astronaut Capt. Ellison S. Onizuka, U.S. Air Force, will be the keynote speaker. Tickets will be \$12.50 per person. The banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. Ticket sales will cease as soon as the space is sold out.

Capt. Ellison S. Onizuka is the native of Kona, Hawaii received his B.S. and M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the Univ. of Colorado. He is married to former Leiko Yoshida of Pahaia, Hawaii and have two children.

Capt. Onizuka was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in January 1978 and in July commenced a 2-year training and evaluation program to qualify for subsequent assignment as a mission specialist on future space shuttle flight crews.

His recreational interests include running, hunting, fishing, gardening, woodworking, golf, bowling, basketball, softball, racquetball, and volleyball.

Dean Charles Z. Smith will be the master of ceremony at the banquet. Roy Ogasawara is chairperson for the banquet.

FROM THE BOARD:

Frank Abe made report on the "Day of Remembrance" activities where over 2,000 participated. 250 car convoy escorted by five state patrolmen and military vehicles of two trucks and two buses stretched for four mile length. It took 30 minutes to pass one intersection. The event was filmed by "20-20" program and will be shown in late January or early February. Frank Abe said young people in the caravan started to talk to their father and father to their sons. He wanted more of that happening.

Chuck Kato made a brief mention on the Redress Committee activities. "It looks like Seattle is taking the leadership. In the last San Francisco meeting, Seattle seems to be the only one making presentations."

President Taniguchi received recognition for the excellent way he led the Seattle Chapter throughout the year including his role in the National Convention.

The meeting adjourned after a brief meeting and Christmas social followed. Helen Akita was the social chairperson for the evening. Excellent foods and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

MASIGAT RECEIVES SENIOR SENIOR CITIZEN OF YEAR AWARD

Al Masigat, a 73-year-old housing advocate and longtime resident of the International District, has been selected as Senior Citizen of the Year 1978 for the City of Seattle. He shares this award with Bodil Campbell, a 79-year-old activist, who were both honored by Seattle Mayor Charles Royer on Dec. 17.

"Uncle Al" as he is called by young activists, is a board member of the International District Improvement Association (Inter*Im) and the International District Housing Alliance. In recent years, Uncle Al has been the voice for the multi-ethnic residents of the District in their quest for decent, affordable housing.

"When the young students were spending their time demonstrating against the war, our young people spent most of their time demonstrating and lobbying the government for housing for our poor people," said Uncle Al. "And we're still active in our goal to protect the District for residents and small businesses."

Recently, 225 housing units from Neighborhood Strategy Area funds were allocated to the District and two new low-income elderly highrises are under construction, due in large part to Uncle Al's commitment and involvement. He has testified tirelessly before City Council hearings, housing conferences and workshops. And someone must be listening.

"If you don't put on the pressure no one will make any decisions," said Uncle Al.

STATE'S DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION READY TO HELP DISABLED PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY

The Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is continuing to provide a comprehensive program of vocational rehabilitation for persons in Asian community with physical or mental disabilities, according to Vernon Oato, Affirmative Action Officer of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The program is designed to provide disabled persons with the means of independent and productive lives. When a person's disability constitutes a substantial handicap to employment, and where there is reasonable expectation that vocational rehabilitation services may benefit an individual's employability, DVR can be of assistance.

Among the services available are: an evaluation of the person's strengths and weaknesses; evaluation of vocational interest and work potential; counseling and guidance; physical and mental aids; job training; tuition, books, equipment costs; transportation expenses; living allowances; job placement; and progress follow-up.

The cost of services depends on the individual's needs and resources.

DVR's aim is to change "Disability to Ability," according to Peter Jamero, state director, and they are anxious to be of assistance to those who might benefit from their services.

Last year the division of vocational rehabilitation helped 20,000 disabled people in Washington State - accident victims, injured veterans, epileptics, people with hearing problems, drug problems, alcohol problems and many other disabilities, both physical and mental.

Additional information about the program and DVR services may be obtained by calling 464-7773 or by visiting your local DVR office, 1700 E. Cherry, Seattle 98122.

KINOSHITA-DESIGNED WATERFALL IN PIONEER SQUARE

Water Fall Garden Park, dedicated some months ago in Seattle's Pioneer Square area, was designed by Masai Kinoshita. Kinoshita says he fell in love with the natural beauty of the Northwest when visiting here.

"Water and your native rocks are the constant elements of this composition. I have tried to shake hands with nature and have attempted to understand her moods and manners."

22 feet high waterfall composed of granite boulders from nearby mountain side and a mass of cascading water generated by 5,000 gallons per minute pumps, is filtered and recirculated. Kinoshita calls this the "Expression of Nature into a Urban Space." Kinoshita designed the park when he worked for Sasaki Associate, Inc. of Watertown, Mass. Since then he has left the firm to become director of the School of Architecture, Ohio State University.

LOCAL RESIDENTS RETAIN CONTROL OF HONOLULU HOTELS

Honolulu's hotel ownership is distributed as follows: Hawaii 55%, Mainland U.S. 23.9%; Japan 17%, Canada 1.2%, Hong Kong 1.1%, Korea 0.8%, Taiwan 0.5%, unknown 0.3%. Clapp family of Seattle kept Hale Kulani charmingly low-rise and Kenji Osano of Japan preserves the venerable Moana and Royal Hawaiian Hotels.

VIDEOCASSETTE FEATURED IN NEW STORE OPENED BY WESTON NISHIMURA

VIDEOSPACE is something new! Weston Nishimura opens a store devoted to the new things in video. VIDEOSPACE sells video tape recorders, cameras and related equipment. It is the first store in the area to stock a wide selection of movies on videocassette. They have over three hundred titles in stock and are expanding their list of in-store films each week.

VIDEOSPACE is located at 624 Bellevue Way N.E. in Bellevue, 454-4488.

RUBY CHOW CHOSEN TO HEAD COUNTY COUNCIL

The County Council unanimously elected Democrat Ruby Chow as its chairwoman for 1979. Mrs. Chow, a Seattle restaurant owner who has served on the Council for the past five years, was the Council's vice chairwoman last year. She will succeed fellow Democrat Bernice Stern, who will take Mrs. Chow's place as Council vice chairwoman.

SEATTLE KEIRO NEWS

Construction Started: Work was started in December on the expansion of the Seattle Keiro dining area into a multi-purpose room, as well as a basement for laundry facilities and for storage. The total cost of the project, according to Tosh Okamoto, president of Issei Concern, is \$160,000, with completion scheduled for March of this year. John Y. Sato Corporation is the builder. The addition of the multi-purpose room will enable Keiro staff members and volunteers to conduct the extensive activity programs under much more compatible conditions. The basement will provide much-needed areas for storage and expand the nursing home's laundering facilities.

New Officials: Mitsuru Takahashi has been elected to the Board of Directors of Issei Concerns, representing the Seattle Japanese Gardeners Association. Dr. Ben Uyeno has been named to the newly-created post of vice president--medical director of Issei Concerns.

Kokoro-Kai-No-Tomo: This group has been made an official support member of Issei Concerns. It is the second organization to be granted that status, the first being Ayame-Kai, the women's guild. Kokoro-Kai is the Issei Concerns day health care center for elderly Japanese, located at the Japanese Presbyterian Church. Its volunteer director is Koichi Shimizu of Hokkaido, Japan, who is a research fellow at the University of Washington.

CETA Jobs: Under provisions of a contract signed with CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act), Issei Concerns will hire three persons for the Kokoro-Kai program. The positions are for program coordinator, activities coordinator and van driver. Applicants must contact the nearest office of the U.S. Employment Security Department for interviews to determine their eligibility and qualifications. For further information, call Fred Takayasu, acting administrator of Keiro Nursing Home, 329-9575.

License: Fred Takayasu has received his administrator's license from the Washington State Department of Social & Health Services.

Ayame-Kai: New officers of Ayame-Kai have been elected for 1979. They are Lovett Moriguchi, president; Hiroko Nakagawa, vice president; Joyce Nakamura, secretary; Shiz Kaku, treasurer; Toshi Okamoto, projects director, and Joan Seko, special projects director. Kachi Ikeda is the new advisor.

INTERIM*IM BOARD

The following are new Inter*Im board officers elected during the 10th anniversary dinner Dec. 6th:

Tony Ishisaka, president, associate professor UW School of Social Work and volunteer consultant to Asian Counseling and Referral Service; Leo Lorenzo, 1st VP, retired active member of the Filipino Senior Citizens Club and I.D. Housing Alliance; Marilyn Akita, 2nd VP, alumna of Bailey Gatzert, compliance officer for Washington State Human Rights Commission; Phyllis Verzosa, secty/treasurer, civil rights investigator with Washington State Human Rights Commission.

* * *

Inter*Im celebrated its anniversary dinner at Sun Ya Restaurant. Attending the affair were several City Council members, governmental heads, and Mayor Charles Royer who gave a brief testimonial to Inter*Im's contributions to the community and city over the years. The 180 persons witnessed "democracy-in-action" with the quick elections of Inter*Im officers and Linda Ramos, in her last moments as 1977 president gave the annual report. Tomio Moriguchi and Vera Ing brought us back to the beginning phases of Inter*Im when they reviewed 10-year highlights with warmth and wit. --Inter*Im newsletter

TASK FORCES FOR COMMISSIONS ON ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Eight committees and one task force was formally named at the Commission meeting held last fall in Bremerton. They are:

Executive committee: Ray Corpuz, Jr., chairperson; Paul Isaki, Jeni Kay Fung, H.T. Wong, Akemi Matsumoto, Raymond Lew; nominations committee--H.T. Wong, chairperson; public relations committee--Akemi Matsumoto, chairperson; business, economics, and employment committee--John Slee, chairperson.

The following is a list of the four remaining committees and chairpersons:

Immigration committee--Takeshi Kubota, chairperson; education committee--Paula Frial, chairperson; legislation/legal services committee--Robert Krisologo, chairperson; target population and human services committee--Lee Jane Armstrong, chairperson.

APPLICATIONS BEING RECEIVED FOR NVC WOMEN'S AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP

Application forms are now available for Nisei Veterans Committee Women's Auxiliary scholarship to a young women wishing financial aid in attending a college or university of her choice. The applicant must be of Japanese ancestry. The scholarship award is in the amount of \$300.00. Those interested are asked to call Aiko Okamoto, 722-2280 or Daisy Tomita, 772-1948 for application forms. Two recommendations are required when forms are turned in. Deadline for entry is Feb. 28.

NEWS JOTTINGS: Fifty-two Pi Omicron Sigma honorary fraternity members were initiated at the Alpha Delta Phi house. The purpose of this organization at the U.W. is to recognize and honor fraternity men who, in the estimation of their fraternity and the Pi Omicron Sigma committee, have made an outstanding contribution to their respective fraternity or to the greek system as a whole. Those initiated include Dave Tanaka, Delta Chi and Keith Yasutake, Tau.

NEWS JOTTINGS(Cont'd): Kappa Epsilon . . . Nine of the 11 staff members hired recently by Congressman-elect Mike Lowry were connected with the 7th District Democrat's campaign for Congress last November. Lowry said he hired his staff from among 1,200 applicants. Ruthann Kurose, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jun Kurose, will be paid \$16,000 as Lowry's senior community representative . . . Suana Wong, 20, Univ. of Washington junior, was named Miss Seattle Chinatown Dec. 23 in a pageant at the Chong Wa Benevolent Association Hall. She will represent Seattle's Chinese community at the Miss Chinatown U.S.A. Pageant in San Francisco Feb. 3. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry H.G. Wong, live in Portland. Jadina Eng, 20, a Cleveland high graduate, was the first runnerup, and Kathryn Chinn, 20, a Univ. of Washington communications student, was second runnerup . . . 5.2 million special Christmas oranges arrived in time from Japan for the holiday. This is the 11th consecutive season the little oranges were imported by Taky Kimura of Seattle, the only authorized importer for the oranges in the United States. Kimura's Great Empire Trading Co. of Seattle is permitted by federal regulation to distribute them only to Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Hawaii as non-citrus growing areas.

Milestones:
Matsuno Okada, 78, Nov. 30 . . . Hiroshi Fujino, 57, Dec. 1. Private family services were held. Member of Society of SPEEA (Boeing). Survivors include: mother, Mrs. Kiku Fujino; brother, Manabu R. Fujino; sisters, Mrs. Tommy (Mariko) Namba, all Seattle; Mrs. Mark (Tomi) Pohlabel, Westchester, CA . . . Jack Shigeyoshi Tanabe. Services Dec. 9. Japanese Baptist Church, Shiga Kenjin Kai, Seattle First Hill Lions Club and Tengu Sportsmen's Club. Survivors include: wife Josephine Y.; son Roger T. Tanabe; brother, David S. Tanabe; sisters, Mrs. Riso Tanabe, Mrs. Frank (Agnes) Hattori, Mrs. Robert (Jennette) Tsukui and Mrs. George (Laurette) Saito, all Seattle . . . Jinzo Sato. Services Dec. 9. Japanese Presbyterian Church, Kanagawa Kenjin Kai, Seattle Japanese Community Service, Kokugo Gakko, Kokusei Shigin Kai, Hyaku Do Kai. Mr. Sato was associated with Taihoku Nippo before WW2 and with Hokubei Hochi after returning from evacuation. He was on the Kokugo Gakko board and on the Hyakunen Zakura committee. Survivors include: wife Mrs. Haruko Sato; daughters Mrs. Hiroshi (Cherry Anne) Nishikawa and Mrs. Yukio (Julianne) Kumasaka, both Seattle; three grandchildren and one brother, two sisters in Japan . . . Hisami Kawafune, 89, Dec. 11 . . .

Masao "Roger" Tomita, 54, Dec. 20. Japanese Baptist Church, past commander and its life member of Nisei Veterans Committee, Issei Concerns, JACL, Bocho Club, Postal Union, Puget Sound Golf Club. Survivors include: wife Masako Tomita; daughters, Mrs. Toshiyuki (Laura) Kusaka, Japan; Marianne R. Tomita and Julie K. Tomita, all Seattle; brothers, Kiyoshi K. Tomita, Seattle; Chester M. Tomita, Chicago; Richard K. Tomita, Robert S. Tomita, Yoshio Tomita; sister Nancy T. Tomita, all Seattle . . . Fumi Frances Imori, 51, Dec. 25. Services Dec. 28. Survivors include: husband, Henry T. Imori; sons David S. Imori, Daniel S. Imori, Peter T. Imori; daughters Miki K. Imori, Ruth H. Imori, and Mary M. Imori, all Seattle; brothers Seichi Ogawa, Tats Ogawa and Iwaho "Duke" Ogawa; sisters, Mrs. Masami (Nobuko) Otsubo, Mrs. Chiyo Shigezame, all Los Angeles; and Mrs. Hisashi (Mergie) Mukumoto, Seattle . . .

(Continued on pp 5)

MASAO "ROGER" TOMITA:Mission in Community and Church Completed

The community mourned the loss of Mr. Masao "Roger" Tomita. He was supply manager for U.S. Post Office. His passing left a painful void where the community well being depends on volunteer workers for the sustenance of institutional responsibilities.

Masao was serving as the board member of Seattle JACL. Previously he took on the responsibility of chairing the scholarship committee one year.

We had the privilege of knowing Masao since his return from the military service with the provost detachment in Japan. He came from the musical family. As a teenager before WW2 he played trumpet and his twin brother Yoshio took care of the tenor sax with the Mikado of Swing led by Koichi Hayashi. Their format was styled after Glen Miller's band. He joined the post-war Nikkei band the "Melodaires."

Before his marriage we used to visit the Tomita family often to enjoy the collections of now rare Glenn Miller, James, Goodman, Basie, Slam Stewart, and all the great jazzmen to follow. And to complete the circle, Masao had worked behind the scene (and that was his style), and we heard in the background during the "Day of Remembrance" program at the Puyallup fairground hall the records familiar to Minidoka days. He had provided the records.

Masao with his brother Yoshio spent years and years of their spare time remodeling the Japanese Baptist Church. He was to serve three terms as church moderator, highest lay position in the church. He served as social concerns chairperson almost continually. We remember making at least two trips to San Francisco with him as delegates to the Asian American Baptist Caucus getting involved in heavy dialogues.

Masao became actively involved in Nisei Veterans Committee chairing every major committee and office and serving as its commander. And who was blowing the taps during the NVC sponsored community Memorial Day services? He was involved in all the NVC fund raising campaigns. We used to enjoy his company during trips to Portland to participate in Oregon Nisei Vets installation and social. We remember one year attending the Nisei Veterans Reunion in Honolulu.

He was one of the backbone for the Bocho (Yamaguchi prefecture) Club.

He was on the organizing committee and board member for Employment Opportunity Center (EOC) now federally funded, when the jobless rate in Seattle peaked at 14%. Tomita was on the committee to push English as a Second Language concept in public schools and to seek its federal funding. (Continued page 5)

TOMITA (Cont'd): Tomita was on the founding committee and board member of Issei Concerns which culminated in the formation of Seattle Keiro Home. He was serving as vice president in charge of its facilities and the construction of its additional wing.

Tomita was an activist. He noted that Asian workers in the U.S. Post Office here were among the bottom rung, bypassed in all promotions notwithstanding rare exceptions after two decades of service. He pressed charges of discrimination. He asked the JACL regional office for help and he hand carried the documents in person. He received no response or follow up letter. Government attorneys were overwhelming. He lost the case but the postal unit got its message. He served as postal EEO representative. He made testimony to the Washington State Commission on Asian American Affairs when they held an all-day hearing on discrimination to Asians.

In spite of all these involvements, Masao "Roger" Tomita had time for his family of wife Masako and daughters Mrs. Toshiyuki (Laura) Kusaka, Marianne and Julie.

We are all going to miss him.

NEWS JOTTINGS (MILESTONES) Cont'd: Masao Harry Kawahara. Services Dec. 28. Seattle Buddhist Church and its Men's Fellowship, Hiroshima Kenjin Kai, JACL. Survivors include: wife Masako Annie Kawahara; sons Fred T. Kawahara, San Mateo, CA and Gary A. Kawahara, Seattle. Also three grandchildren . . . Yoshinao "Pete" Yorita, 75, Jan. 1. Private family services were held. Survivors include: wife, Sugako Yorita; son Jim Yorita, Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.; daughter, Mrs. Ralph (Patsy) Riley, Chicago, Ill.; four grandchildren, two great grandchildren, brothers, Goro Yorita, Mateo Yorita, Ben Yorita, George Yorita, all Seattle; Tatsuo Yorita, Los Angeles; sisters, Mrs. Mitsu Shibuya, Yokohama; Mrs. Saige (Yae) Shiomi, Mrs. George (Tsune) Mizuki, Mrs. Bill (Dorothy) Chin, all Seattle. Yoshinao Yorita worked for Hokubei Jiji in Seattle before WW2. He was a linotypist for Chicago's Superior Match Co. printing book matches until his retirement. He was working for Seattle's Hokubei Hochi as pressman . . . A Seattle bank official, his wife and two daughters died Jan. 5 when their car rammed through the guard rail on an ice-coated interstate 5 bridge in Clark County, then plunged 45 feet into Salmon Creek. Tachikawa's car was hit by the station wagon which went out of control on ice. The victims were Mitsuo Tachikawa, 38, of Bellevue; his wife, Shuko, 35, and their daughters, Motoko, 10, and Junko, 6. Tachikawa was assistant general manager of the Seattle office of the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. He and his family had been living in the Seattle area for less than two years after a transfer from the Osaka main office of the bank . . .

Calendar of Events

- Jan. 13--The annual luncheon hosted by the NVC for senior citizens of the community. Tosh Okamoto, chairperson.
- Jan. 17--Seattle Chapter JACL meeting from 7:45 p.m. at the JACL office, 316 Maynard Ave. S., Room 109. Refreshments as usual. Everyone welcome.
- Jan. 19--The annual JACL installation and awards banquet at Bush Garden Restaurant with Sansei Astronaut Capt. Ellison Onizuka of the U.S. Air Force as speaker. \$12.50 per person. 6:30 p.m. Astronaut Onizuka will be here at least two days before the banquet hoping to meet with Sansei groups. Roy Ogasawara is banquet chairperson.
- Feb. 9--Deadline for newsletter. Allow one week for delivery. Mail articles, news clippings, announcements to: c/o (editor) Eira Nagoka, 2809 N.E. 54th St., Seattle 98105.
- Feb. 14--JACL newsletter mailout. 7 p.m. at the JACL office, 316 Maynard Ave. S., Room 109. We need all the help we can get.

NEWSLETTER MAILOUTS

We hit a bonanza on November 8 when Henry Miyatake called for help with the special inserts for the "Day of Remembrance" issue. Showing up for Henry was Kimi Nakanishi, Stan Matsushita, Lois Narden, Christine Y. Akutsu, Sharon Miyake, Cherry Kinoshita, Mitsuye Mihara, Alen Osaki, John Harada, Knobby Wong, Frank Abe, Ron Mamiya, Ben Kiyohara. On Dec. 8 we were grateful for the help of Ted Taniguchi, Ken Nakano, Ken Sakura.

Seattle Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League
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